

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00718 261105Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /066 W

----- 015298

R 261017Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4307

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 718

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: PM ALLEGES BANK ROBBERY-INSURGENCY LINK

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT BANK ROBBERY IN COLOMBO SUBURB FEBRUARY 11 HAS BEEN LINKED BY PRIME MINISTER TO FAR-LEFT INSURRECTIONISTS. PM REPORTEDLY ALLEGED AT FEBRUARY 24 CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT AGENTS THAT SIX ROBBERS- INCLUDING ONE UNIVERSITY LECTURER AND TWO UNDERGRADUATES-INTENDED TO USE STOLEN 600,000 RUPEES (50,000) TO ACQUIRE PRINTING PRESS FOR RADICAL PROPAGANDA.

2. PM ALSO SPECULATED THAT THIS THEFT WAS LINKED WITH SPATE OF RECENT ROBBERIES OF VILLAGE COOPERATIVE STORES' DAILY COLLECTIONS.

3. PM'S EVIDENCE APPARENTLY COMES FROM STATEMENTS GIVEN BY SUSPECTS PICKED UP IN CONNECTION WITH ROBBERY. THOSE SUSPECTS STILL AT LARGE ARE SAID TO INCLUDE ONE WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN 1971 INSURGENCY BUT LATER RELEASED. POLICE SOURCES APPEAR TO AGREE THAT BANK ROBBERY WAS CARRIED OUT BY POLITICAL DISSIDENTS SEEKING FUNDING FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES.

4. THESE CHARGES AGAINST WHAT PRESS DESCRIBED AS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 00718 261105Z

"ORGANIZED UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT" ARE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE THEY ARE REMINISCENT OF MODUS

OPERANDI OF APRIL 1971 INSURGENTS WHO FINANCED
INSURRECTION BY SERIES OF BANK THEFTS. PM CITED
SAME PATTERN EMERGING NOW.

5. EARLIER PRESS ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ARMS,
AMMUNITION, AND "INFLAMMATORY LITERATURE" HAD BEEN
DISCOVERED SOON AFTER ROBBERY AT SUSPECTS' FARM
NEAR COLOMBO. MONTHLY NEWSPAPER IS CREDITED TO
SAME GROUP. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY ISSUE BEING SOLD SINCE
ROBBERY.

6. COMMENT: PM'S COMMENTS POINTUP FACT THAT GSL
CONTINUES TO BE WARY OF RENEWED INSURGENT
ACTIVITY AND IS KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON ANY SUSPICIOUS
DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD.

VAN HOLLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, THEFTS, BANKS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB00718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760072-1050
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760211/aaaaajcv.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM ALLEGES BANK ROBBERY-INSURGENCY LINK
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006